



The Magi

Read Matthew 2

Matthew writes the only account we have of Jesus' visitors from the East. However, a rich mythology of "Three Kings" has developed surrounding this account. What differences do you notice between Matthew's account and the stories we have been told about these visitors?

Why do you think all the extra mythology developed? Does it hurt anything?

From your perspective what benefit, if any is there in stripping away the mythology and focusing on the account in Matthew?

Consider the Star

I claimed on Sunday that the star wasn't a floating glowing orb that moved in the sky to literally guide the way to Bethlehem but that it was an omen interpreted by the magi who were trained in astrology. Does the removal of the floating miracle star damage the story for you?

Considering that God had outlawed divination and the reading of omens, calling those practices detestable, what does it mean to you that God used an astrological event to reach the Magi?

Consider the Worship

I think Matthew's main point is to draw the contrast between the Gentile magi who traveled a thousand miles on the hint from a star to worship Jesus against Herod and the scholars who despite having the word of the prophets wouldn't walk six miles to Bethlehem. What does that say to you?

My claim on Sunday was this: God speaks the language of any who would listen. What do you think of that?

Take it Home

Jesus came to speak the language of any who would listen and receive him, and he calls us to reach out to others even as he reached out to us... even as the Father reached out to distant, foreign, unlikely magi in their language.

This Christmas season, how will you listen? How will you receive? How will you reach out?



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